

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Attached U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/JP99/05838 of:

Hiroshi NAGASAKA et al.

Serial No.: (new application)

Filed: HERewith

For: SLIDING MEMBER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR

*The amend
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2-31-01
14*PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

April 23, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel all claims and add new claims 19-30 as follows:

19. A sliding member comprising a substrate and a hard coating formed on said substrate, wherein said hard coating comprises a nitride-based material containing titanium nitride and Cr, and having a face-centered cubic crystalline structure with a lattice constant ranging from 0.414 to 0.423 nm in a crystal of said nitride-based material.

20. A sliding member comprising a substrate and a hard coating formed on said substrate, wherein said hard coating comprises a nitride-based material containing titanium nitride and B, and having a face-centered cubic crystalline structure comprising crystallites of an average size of not more than 9 nm.

21. A sliding member comprising a substrate and a hard coating formed on said substrate,

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